



## Aqua Vitae



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### Chapter 1 by Hachimitsu

As I navigate through the reeds, I hear the sound of my boots sloshing. My legs churn the river water, making small whirlpools.

Walking in this condition was more strenuous than I'd anticipated. With each step, I had to lift my knee up to my waist, fighting the mud that threatened to suck me into the water. I had more than once fallen victim to a particularly deep hole, almost instantly losing grip underneath my soul and falling into a big splash of brownish-grey water.

I was almost to the estuary, which means it had to be somewhere near. The mapmaker gave his word that the treasure would be here, along the side of the Alceia that meets the eastern forest, exactly thirty kilometers south of Laikhn. Entrusting in him my fate, I have walked along the edge of the river for the past three days, stopping only for rest and refreshment. I believe the chalice must be in these waters.

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